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America's promising and dreamy "land of opportunity" was and is a reality to white people. Luxuriously privileged as they are, they thrive in a world molded by the exhausted hands of the people they oppress. Their voices are louder, their vision is clearer, and their thoughts, beliefs, and ideas carry the same weight as gems. The safety of ignorance ties them down and allows them to ignore the dire consequences of white supremacy. Despite the blatant injustice and discrimination people of color, especially Black Americans, live through during their everyday lives, Dr. King dreamt America's creed would be fulfilled one day. America has never once lived up to what Dr. King calls "the true meaning of its creed", otherwise known as the self-evident truth that all men are created equal.

As a Baptist minister and a civil rights activist, Dr. King cherished his hopes and dreams for America's future. He organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) after the success of the Montgomery bus boycotts, providing him with a nationwide platform in order to discuss race, religion, and civil rights with other leaders and to speak to the American public. With the SCLC, Dr. King devoted himself to the civil rights movement, understanding that his direct actions against injustice would bring about change in Jim Crow's America. He supported sit-ins, protest marches, and all nonviolent actions to bring about justice. His patience and virtue allowed him to go against America's anti-Blackness, and furthermore, drive white Americans to confront their ignorance and privilege in nonviolent ways.

After a sit-in at a lunch counter, Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested and jailed. He wrote from the jail:

"You may well ask: 'Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?' You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue."

Dr. King emphasizes the importance of the impact a community has in his nonviolent philosophies. An individual is capable of accomplishing goals, driving towards their ambitions, and succeeding, but these goals are set in what they believe to be realistic. Organizing a

community together can do what an individual can, but with the ability to surpass what an individual might believe to be realistic, and make the dreams of many a reality for all.

To reflect, I'd like to be able to have conversations with all sorts of people about race, class, gender, and other topics within intersectionality and use the same kindness, respect, and patience MLK also expressed in order to bring communities together. I dream of a day where we will educate ourselves, look minorities in the eyes and listen to what they have to say, what they have been trying to say for years. In addition, I'd love to help mutual aid efforts in supporting communities around my area, since as MLK teaches us, cooperation and unity will change and evolve this country into a place where this country can live up to its shallow ideals.

Works Cited

Lewis, David L. and Carson, Clayborne. "Martin Luther King, Jr.". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2 Sep. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-Luther-King-Jr>. Accessed 10 January 2022.